

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



May 6, 1997

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-31

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: RITE OF PASSAGE REMOTE TRAINING CAMPUS

References: All County Letter 94-76

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties of a federal notice to adjust all claims for federal financial participation (FFP) in placements at the Rite of Passage (ROP) Remote Training Campus (RTC) in Nevada and to remind counties of the prohibition on FFP in the costs of placement in that facility.

Background:

In 1986, ROP/RTC was designated a detention facility by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In 1988, a federal Department Grant Appeals Board (DAB) ruled that ROP/RTC was properly designated a detention facility and that placement costs charged by that facility were not eligible for FFP.

This 1986 finding, which was subsequently supported in the 1988 DAB decision, was most recently addressed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in ACL 94-76 dated September 12, 1994. This ACL, entitled AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE (AFDC-FC) REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENTS, specifically addressed questions concerning the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and other AFDC-FC requirements for placements outside California. The ACL also addressed questions regarding ROP/RTC located on the Walker River Indian Reservation in Nevada and reminded counties that ROP/RTC was not eligible for FFP.

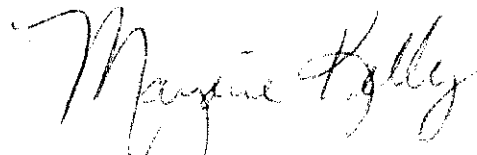
In 1995, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) undertook an audit of four facilities: Arizona Boys Ranch, Glen Mills, Rite of Passage, and VisionQuest. These facilities, all outside of California, were evaluated to determine whether they held for-profit status and were operated primarily as detention facilities. The GAO reported in August of 1995 that inappropriate claims for FFP were made for reimbursement for placements at the ROP/RTC during fiscal years 1992/1993 and 1993/1994; they were inappropriate because the site had been designated by DHHS as a detention facility. The GAO concluded that California must determine and recover the amount of inappropriately claimed federal funds for placements at ROP/RTC for fiscal years 1992/1993 and 1993/1994 for reimbursement to the federal government. This does not include those funds for placements at nondetention ROP sites.

Current Status:

The CDSS has been notified by DHHS to adjust all past Title IV-E claims for ROP/RTC placements. Since the GAO audit covered the period July 1, 1992, through June 30, 1994, claims dating from July 1, 1992, to the present for placements at ROP/RTC must be reviewed and adjusted by counties to ensure federal compliance. Instructions regarding claim adjustments for placements at the ROP/RTC will be forthcoming in a separate County Fiscal Letter later this month. Counties again are reminded that ROP/RTC placements are not eligible for FFP, but remain eligible for State financial participation.

If you have any questions regarding foster care eligibility, contact your county Foster Care Policy Consultant at (916) 323-1263. Questions regarding claim adjustments should be directed to CDSS Fiscal Policy Bureau at (916) 657-3440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marjorie Kelly".

MARJORIE KELLY, Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA